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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/519,234	12/21/2004	Chua Chien Liang	2004-342	9708
27569	7590	08/10/2007		
PAUL AND PAUL 2000 MARKET STREET SUITE 2900 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			EXAMINER KIM, TAE K	
			ART UNIT 2109	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 08/10/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/519,234

Applicant(s)

LIANG, CHUA CHIEN

Examiner

Tae K. Kim

Art Unit

2109

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/21/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to the application filed on December 21, 2004 where Claims 1 – 20, of which Claims 1 and 16 are in independent form, are presented for examination. The applicant has removed Claims 21 – 28 from consideration.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Singapore on June 25, 2002. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Applicant is reminded that in order for a patent issuing on the instant application to obtain the benefit of priority based on priority papers filed in parent Application No. PCT/SG2002/000130 under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), a claim for such foreign priority must be timely made in this application. To satisfy the requirement of 37 CFR 1.55(a)(2) for a certified copy of the foreign application, applicant may simply identify the application containing the certified copy.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Group Networking Utilizing Screening Methods.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 14, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Application 2002/0141560 A1 filed by Media Khayatan and Anders Isven (hereinafter referenced as “Khayatan”).

1. Regarding Claims 1 and 14, Khayatan discloses of a method to generate a group of entities from a plurality of participating entities (Abstract; Para. 0041; system and method of establishing a group of individuals with mutual interests) comprising of one of said participating entities expressing by indication which others of said participating entities they wish to meet (Para. 0041, 0042; contacting and inviting other people to join the group), selecting to be a first member of the group an entity which has indicated at least one other of said participating entities it wishes to meet (Para. 0042; “Group Initiator” initiates the group), adding a new entity to the group by selecting said new entity from the set of indications of the last member added to said group (Para. 0070; “Invite” feature allows other group members to invite people to join that group).

2. Regarding Claim 16, Khayatan discloses a system to generate groups to meet for the purpose of enabling participating entities to meet others of said participating entities more effectively (Abstract; “Group Establishment System”) comprising of a computer readable storage medium (Fig. 1 and 2; Para. 0044 and 0045; describes the use of a database), linkages to said participating entities by input/output devices (Fig. 1 and 2; Para. 0044 and 0045; the use of various devices that can access the main

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program), wherein the particulars of said participating entities and indications can be fed in and stored in the computer readable storage medium and resultant groups generated posted to the entities via the same input/output devices (Fig. 1 and 2; Para. 0044, 0045, 0092 – 0096; group members enter personal data to the database, along with events, activities, etc.), and computer programming stored on the storage medium (Para. 0045; program located in database).

3. Regarding Claims 2 and 17, Khayatan discloses all the limitations of Claims 1 and 16. Furthermore, Khayatan discloses that the set of indications of an entity are the set of other entities that said entity indicated it is interested in meeting (Para. 0041, 0042, 0043; invitees join the group if they desire to join).

4. Regarding Claim 12, Khayatan discloses all the limitation of Claim 1 as stated above. Khayatan further discloses that the entities under consideration are already pre-selected for in terms of having already indicated a common time (Para. 0080; allows individuals to indicate what time period periods they are interested in) and a common place to meet (Para. 0077; determine what geographical scope the group will have).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khayatan as applied to Claim 1 above.

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5. Regarding Claim 15, Khayatan discloses all the limitation of Claim 1 as stated above. It is commonly known in the art that members of a group or community can also be corporations, people, and a combination of both. People represent corporations since they function through the acts of the people in control and therefore, can become members of a group or community through representation by a corporate employee.

Claims 3 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khayatan as applied to Claims 1 and 16 above, and further in view of U.S. App. 2003/0208727 A1 filed by Michael Peter Mortensen (hereinafter referenced as "Mortensen").

6. Regarding Claims 3 and 19, Khayatan discloses all the limitation of Claims 1 and 16 as stated above. However, it does not specifically disclose of a grouping system comprising of repeatedly adding new members until at least one indication of the set of indications of the last new member added to said group includes one of the current members of the group.

Mortensen discloses of a method, apparatus, and a computer-readable medium enabling a computer to perform such method of grouping failed paths of an integrated circuit design into failed path sets (Para. 0001, 0013). If such node pattern (converted failing path) is already part of the node pattern set and no further node patterns are remaining, the grouping of failed paths into the failed path set is completed (Fig. 5; Para. 0046 – 0048). It is obvious to one skilled in the art that the verification of whether an entry to a group has already been entered into the group to eliminate the redundancy of having duplicate entries of that entity. Furthermore, this method can be modified to

eliminate the requirement to check for other entries once the first redundant entry is found since continuing to sort through all possible paths would take up large amounts resources (Para. 0013 and 0014).

Claims 4, 7, 13, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khayatan as applied to Claims 1 and 16 above, in view of Mortensen, and further in view of U.S. Appl. 2003/0167344 A1 filed by M. Abdulai Danso (hereinafter referenced as "Danso").

7. Regarding Claims 4, 7, 13, 18, and 20, Khayatan, in view of Mortensen discloses all the limitation of Claims 1 and 19 as stated above. However, it does not specifically disclose of using a look ahead or look back method of choosing which one of the set of indications to choose from the last new member where the look ahead or look back consists of N generations.

Danso discloses of a method of organizing a multifunctional communications system beginning at a central entity and expanding further in a pyramidal structure, where the first entity connects with a first group of entities and the entities of the first group each are connected to other entities (Para. 0003; Fig. 1). Danso further discloses of the system where there is a predetermined number of communication levels from the central node and therefore allowing the system to validate the communication path to the last node (Para. 0015; Fig. 2). This system and method allows a user to look at the network beginning at a certain node and determine which interlinking nodes to select to form a closed loop, or in the case of the current application a group of entities expressing interest in meeting the other (Para. 0015). This system will also allow a user

to look at the last node to be included in the group and traced backwards to the beginning. It is obvious to one skilled in the art to validate the communication path from the initial node to the final node of the group through the interlinking nodes in-between them. The predetermined number of levels or entities (Para. 0032) to be included in the group can be used to prevent the formation of very large groups and to minimize the use of available resources. The look back and look forward will allow any user or entity to quickly determine which groups the user-selected nodes or entities are in since not all the requested entities will have the same interests.

8. Regarding Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11, Khayatan, in view of Mortensen and Danso, discloses all the limitations of Claims 1, 4, and 7 as stated above. It is well known in the art that a group formed with N generations will consist of a new member and all the entities from the prior generation ($N - 1$) particularly within the communication and networking environments disclosed in Khayatan, Mortensen, and Danso. Likewise, it is also well known in the art that the formation of such a group, which traces through interconnected entities or nodes where there is a limit on the number entities or nodes within a communication group, can combine both look forward and look back approaches to find the one entity that closes the network loop and completes the group. Again, using the look back and look forward feature will allow any user or entity to quickly determine which groups the user-selected nodes or entities are in. Furthermore, if one particular entity is one that was commonly traced with either the look back, look forward, or combined functions, it satisfies the Mortensen criteria of closing the group.

Additional References

Additional references that are relevant to the pending application and not cited:

U.S. Patent 6,643,681 B1 – system capable of spontaneously, autonomously generating and managing a network community regarding a common subject

Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tae K. Kim, whose telephone number is (571) 270-1979. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frantz Coby, can be reached on (571) 272-4017. The fax phone number for submitting all Official communications is (703) 872-9306. The fax phone number for submitting informal communications such as drafts, proposed amendments, etc., may be faxed directly to the examiner at (571) 270-2979.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free).

TKK


FRANTZ COBY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER